

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2023*

**Statement on Finland's Accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization**  
*April 4, 2023*

Today I am proud to welcome Finland as NATO's 31st ally.

Seventy-four years ago today, as the United States and 11 other nations came together to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, President Truman said, "if there is anything inevitable in the future, it is the will of the people of the world for freedom and for peace." Today that will is stronger than ever with the addition of Finland to NATO.

In May 2022, Finland and Sweden applied for NATO membership. Both countries are strong democracies with highly capable militaries, who share our values and vision for the world. Less than a year later, we are welcoming Finland as a member, the fastest ratification process in NATO's modern history. I look forward to welcoming Sweden as a NATO member as soon as possible, and encourage Türkiye and Hungary to conclude their ratification processes without delay.

When Putin launched his brutal war of aggression against the people of Ukraine, he thought he could divide Europe and NATO. He was wrong. Today, we are more united than ever. And together—strengthened by our newest ally, Finland—we will continue to preserve transatlantic security, defend every inch of NATO territory, and meet any and all challenges we face.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : Finland, North Atlantic Treaty Organization accession.

*Names:* Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich.

*Subjects:* Finland, North Atlantic Treaty Organization accession; Hungary, relations with Sweden; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Russia, President; Sweden, North Atlantic Treaty Organization membership bid; Turkey, relations with Sweden; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes.

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